

of a small tributary stream. On the 30th August, 1983 while doing some general sweeping by the edge of Beacon Plantation, near Ravenglass, (SD09.94) I found *C. viridis* in large numbers feeding and resting on the leaves of *S. sylvatica* in a damp situation near to some alder trees. Altogether some twenty individuals were counted on about six separate plants, and a number of larvae were seen feeding on the leaves where they made large irregular holes in between the main leaf veins. R. W. J. READ, 43 Holly Terrace, Hensingham, Whitehaven, Cumbria, CA28 8RF.

COLEOPHORA OCHREA HAW. AND EPISCHNIA BANKESIELLA RICH. IN SOUTH WALES. — Whilst on an entomological foray to the Gower Peninsula in May 1983 with M. W. Harper, we were lucky enough to find a single case of *Coleophora ochrea* on *Helianthemum* which I unfortunately failed to rear. Also there were a number of larvae in silk tubes on *Inula crithmoides* from which were reared *Epischnia banksiella*. I believe both may be new Welsh records and that the latter may not have been taken out of the Dorset area before. — Dr. A. N. B. SIMPSON, 29 Greenway, Colletts Green, Powick, Worcester.

FYLDE MOTH RECORDS. — We are endeavouring to compile a full record of the moths occurring in the Fylde area of West Lancashire (i.e., an area lying west of the M6 motorway from Preston in the south to about Lancaster in the north). We intend to give an indication of the present (and past) distribution of such species. We shall be grateful if any readers can help us with relevant information to augment our own records. Information on species recorded or collected in the Fylde, with dates and sites, or details of collections containing specimens from this area will be very welcome. Any postal or other expenses incurred will of course be refunded. — C. F. and N. J. STEEDEN, 2 Brighton Avenue, Lytham, St. Annes, Lancashire FY81XQ.

TWO INLAND RECORDS OF PHILOPEDON PLAGIATUS (SCHALLER) (COL.: CURCULIONIDAE). — *Philopedon plagiatus* (Schaller) is well known to be a characteristic species of sand dune habitats, and is nearly always found on the coast, usually in very large numbers. To my knowledge few records of its occurrence from inland situations have appeared in the literature, and it is for this reason that I should like to record here the presence of this species at two inland sites in West Cumbria. I found two specimens crawling over a low grassy bank by the edge of a field near St. Michaels Church at Irton, (NY09.00) on the 23rd June, 1979. This site is approximately seven kilometers from the coast, and the nearest sand dunes are at the Ravenglass Reserve near Drigg. It is possible that the weevils may have strayed from a nearby sand pit which is disused and lies to the south east of the church near Parsonage Farm. My second site was near Panope, Seascale, (NY05.01), where on the 10th May, 1980 I found one individual together with a few speci-

mens of *Strophosomus melanogrammus* (Forster) on the ground at the base of some young plants of Sheeps Sorrel; which were growing on very sandy soil by the side of an old cart track. This second site is about three kilometers from the sea.

Perhaps *P. plagiatus* is well established at these two sites and it would be interesting to discover what it feeds on in inland situations. The weevil is normally associated with Marram Grass, but may well be a more general feeder, at least in the adult stage. I have found the weevil on a number of occasions on the shore between Seascale and Ravenglass on the following plants: Sheeps Sorrel and Common Sorrel, Creeping Thistle, Curled Dock and Sea Mayweed. Hoffmann, (1950, *Faune De France.*, 52 (Coleopteres Curculionides, 1: 376) mentions that in France *P. plagiatus* appears to be polyphagous and has been found feeding on the leaves of Broom, (*Sarothamnus scoparius*) and is sometimes a pest of vines. — R. W. J. READ, 43 Holly Terrace, Hensingham, Whitehaven, Cumbria, CA28 8RF.

THE PAPERS AND ENTOMOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS OF CHARLES P. ALEXANDER (1889-1981) AT THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION. — Dipterists will wish to know that the materials of this legendary student of the Tipulidae have been acquired by the Smithsonian Institution. In his lengthy and informative 1982 obituary, George W. Byers suggested that "when Alexander began his work on the crane flies, there were perhaps 1500 species known world-wide. The species he named and described constitute three-fourths of this now enormous family of 14,000 species, largest among the Diptera. It seems improbable that one man ever before so dominated the development of the taxonomy of so large a family" (*J. Kansas Entomol. Soc.* 55: 409-417). Alexander's correspondence, collecting records, research data, diaries, photographs and miscellaneous papers, which occupy 60 shelf feet, are now being organized and catalogued in the Smithsonian Archives, and a register will eventually be produced. Inquiries about these materials should be directed to the Deputy Archivist, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560. Alexander's immense and authoritative collection of specimens and microscope slides was conveyed shortly before his death, and is now in the Department of Entomology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution. — RONALD S. WILKINSON, American Museum of Natural History, New York City, New York 10024.

ALARM RESPONSE IN LARVAE OF DIURNEA FAGELLA D. & S. — Whilst examining some small larvae which turned out to be those of *Diurnea fagella* in Worcestershire in 1983, I was surprised by their vigorous and quite complicated alarm responses. When their spinings were opened up these small larvae tended to "stand their ground" and when challenged by the apex of a pair of forceps responded by raising the head and the first two thoracic segments from the leaf and at the same time drumming vigorously with the